



Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs!

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

February, 2015

REGISTRATION & CAPACITY:

All refuge programs are FREE, but space may be limited. Preregistration is required for all programs, unless otherwise indicated. Please call (978) 465-5753. **Please Note:** If a program requires preregistration, your registration is not confirmed unless and until you receive a phone call or voice mail message from a member of the refuge staff.

Programs conducted in the auditorium are limited to 75 attendees. Seats are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Admission of additional attendees will stop when capacity has been reached.

Please note that outdoor programs may be cancelled if there is inclement weather and/or insufficient registration. Visit us on the web for more information:

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker_river/ or call Refuge Headquarters. The refuge visitor center is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA.

NEW! Refuge Family Cinema – FREE Movies for Kids and Families

- Sunday, February 1st @ 1:30 pm: *Arctic Tale*
- Sunday, February 15th @ 1:30 pm: *Dr. Suess' The Lorax*

Spend a cold winter afternoon watching a great **FREE** film on the big screen in the comfort of the visitor center auditorium. These are great, entertaining family films with environmental themes. The Friends of Parker NWR will even provide popcorn and bottled water (for a suggested donation). **No preregistration for these programs. Auditorium seating is limited to the first 75 people who show up!**

Behind the Scenes Refuge Tour

Held on the following days: Sunday, Feb. 1st @ 1:00 pm; Sunday, Feb. 8th @ 1:00 pm; Sunday, Feb. 15th @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, Feb. 21st @ 9:30 am; Sunday, Feb. 22nd @ 1:00 pm; and Saturday, Feb. 28th @ 9:30 am

Join a refuge ranger for a behind the scenes tour of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. Tour will be conducted via refuge van, with several brief “drive by” stops along the way. The tour will present an “up close and personal” look at the refuge through the multiple lenses of the cultural history of Plum Island and the Great Marsh, native wildlife and their habitats, and the role of refuge management in the conservation of these precious natural resources. Participants may be driven along areas on the refuge otherwise closed to the public. This guided two hour program is most appropriate for older teens and adults. Binoculars and/or a camera are recommended, but not required. Meet the ranger in the lobby of the Refuge visitor center 15 minutes prior to the program start time. Each session is limited to 14 participants; no more than 4 individuals per sign-up. Again, this is a vehicle – based tour, with limited stops on the Refuge. **Advance registration is required for this program, as enrollment is limited. Be advised that individual tours may be subject to cancellation. *Please note: Those who call and leave messages after hours, your registration is not confirmed until you receive a confirmation call from a Refuge staff member. Please call (978) 465-5753 to register for this program.**

Merrimack River Eagle Festival

Saturday, February 7th from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Once again the refuge is partnering with the Massachusetts Audubon Society at Joppa Flats to celebrate the local presence of wintering American bald eagles. The refuge visitor center will host a variety of fun, hands-on activities that include making an eagle magnet, dissecting owl pellets, and creating a colorful eagle habitat mural (that will later be featured on the refuge's web site!). In addition to these fun activities, visitors will be able to view two live owls from Drumlin Farm. Everything is FREE! **Preregistration is NOT required for Eagle Fest activities.** Additional information about the Festival can be found here: <http://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/joppa-flats/news-events/the-merrimack-river-eagle-festival>

Special Program: *On Silent Wings – The Magic of the Snowy Owl*

Saturday, February 14th @ 1:30 pm

During the winter of 2013-2014 award-winning Massachusetts wildlife photographer Peter Christoph spent 14 full days along the Atlantic coast following the movements of a few snowy owls during their winter migration to the beaches of Salisbury, Hampton and Plum Island. They flew quite a distance from their home on the frozen tundra in the high Arctic and Peter was there to capture these rare and intimate photographs of the snowy owls taken in their winter habitat. Peter will share both his images, and the stories behind the images, during this very special program. This program will be presented in conjunction with the regular monthly meeting of the Photographic Society of Parker River NWR. Program starts in the auditorium at 1:30 pm. **Preregistration is NOT required for this program and space is limited to the first 75 attendees.**

The Photographic Society welcomes anyone who has an interest in nature, wildlife, and/or photography – whether you are a total novice or earn a living by taking pictures! The club meets every month, generally on the second Saturday afternoon. Club activities include special presentations, slide shows (of members' work), intra-club mentoring and training, photo shoots, on-line photo sharing, and involvement in the refuge's various photography-related programs, events, and outreach activities.

Making Tracks: Learning to Read Wildlife Clues

Sunday, February 15th, 10:30 am – Noon

If you have ever seen tracks in the snow, sand, or soil and were curious about what made them, then this is the program for you! Refuge staff will lead you through the basics of identifying common animals through the clues that they leave behind. A brief introduction to animal tracks and other sign will be held in the visitor center classroom, followed by a trip to the refuge where we will look for tracks and attempt to determine their owner's identity (input from all participants is encouraged and welcome). This is a program for beginners and is appropriate for anyone aged 10 and up. Please dress appropriately for cold and damp weather as this program is conducted outside. Meet in the lobby of the visitor center. Poor weather conditions may cause cancellation. **Preregistration IS required as the program is limited to 8 people.**

NEW! Nature Story Time

Saturday, February 21st @ 11:00 am

A new partnership between the refuge and the Newburyport Public Library, this particular story hour is being conducted in recognition of National Bird Feeding Month. After listening to a couple of bird-themed stories, participating children will have an opportunity to build and take home their very own birdfeeders. **This program is appropriate for children ages 5 to 9 and will take place in the Children's Room at the Newburyport Public Library. This program is FREE and does NOT require preregistration.**

These Visitor Center Exhibits Change Monthly:

Artist of the Month Gallery: Each month a different photographer or artist displays their nature and/or wildlife-related fine art in the refuge visitor center auditorium

Photographic Society Slide Show: Just inside the visitor center's front door is a large video monitor that displays the latest nature and wildlife-themed slide show that was produced by members of the refuge's very own photo club. A new slide show, set to music, and focusing on a unique theme, is produced each month.